

Burr Oak Woods

Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

The **Nutshell** ~ April 2010

Succession

A Rock Is No More Than Soil on Its Way to the Ocean

If you have hiked the Bethany Falls Trail at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area you probably noticed the large limestone outcrops bordering the path as you meandered through. These impressive formations appear to have been strategically positioned there one block at a time, some of them just inches from the next. Like finely placed pieces of a geological puzzle, the limestone tells a dramatic story about its past. Over eons of time, the shells and fossils of prehistoric sea creatures were compressed into sedimentary rock by the immense pressure of an ancient inland sea, and formed into the geological creations we see today. In due time, this limestone will return to the same ocean to which it was born and likely be replaced by plants and trees. This phenomenon is referred to as succession. Succession is defined as the gradual and orderly process of ecosystem change and development over long periods of time.

The limestone outcrops that border the Bethany Falls Trail are an excellent example of such long term modification. Burr Oak Woods experiences below freezing temperatures each winter, causing trapped water inside of these rocks to expand. The freezing water expands, breaking the large rocks down into smaller and smaller particles. These constituent parts then erode downhill to the nearest creek or stream where they will roll and tumble their way to the ocean. Grasses, forbes, and eventually tall trees will someday replace the now infertile rock surface of these limestone outcrops once they have been completely broken down. If you have never hiked the Bethany Falls Trail at Burr Oak Woods, this spring would be a perfect time. Look carefully. Read the story. You and your family are walking through geologic time. And now you know these remarkable limestone creations will not be around forever.

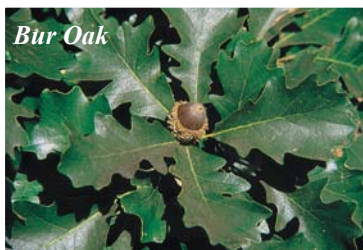
Jason Watson

Missouri Arbor Day at Burr Oak Woods

2 Friday & 3 Saturday 8:00a – 4:00p

Adults, Families, Groups

While supplies last, adults, families, or groups visiting the nature center may choose one seedling to take and plant. Walk-ins are welcome, no registration required.



Bur Oak



Wild Plum



Redbud



Kentucky Coffee

Volunteer Milestones



*Volunteers that
reached milestones
in the months
of November,
December &
January 2010*

Joe Braughton

1000 hrs

Kathryn Brown

200 hrs

Sharon Hutcheson

500 hrs

Alex Rittel

300 hrs

Lorraine Sciara

750 hrs

Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it , too!

April Programs

Please call **816-228-3766** on or after **Thursday, April 1, 2010** to register for the **FREE** programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list can attend.

2 Friday & 3 Saturday 8:00a – 4:00p

Missouri Arbor Day!

Adults, Families, Groups

Celebrate Missouri Arbor Day by taking a hike beneath these towering giants that grace the trails at Burr Oak Woods. The first 200 adults, families, or groups may choose a beautiful native tree to take home with them. Species to choose from include: Bur Oak, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Redbud, or Wild Plum, while supplies last. Walk-ins are welcome, no registration required.

3 Saturday 10:00 – 11:30a

Arbor Day Tree Hunt

Families WITH CHILDREN 8 & UP

Join us this Missouri State Arbor Day weekend as we hunt for native trees using GPS units. No prior GPS experience is necessary, but a sense of adventure is required! Please call to register.

7 Wednesday 8:00 – 10:00a

13 Tuesday 8:00 – 10:00a

23 Friday 8:00 – 10:00a

28 Wednesday 8:00 – 10:00a

Birding: Early Migration Bird Hike

Ages 10 & up YOUTH 10-15 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

Birding is exciting in the month of April. Early migrating species will be arriving. Be prepared to hike. Birders of all levels are welcome. Please call to register.



8 Thursday 1:00 – 3:00p

Wild Ones: A Salute to Spring Greens

Adults

The first greens of spring are beginning to emerge. Join the Wild Ones as they take you out on the trail to learn how to identify and prepare these spring greens that are full of flavor and high in nutrition. Please call to register.



10 Saturday 11:00 – 2:30p

Nature Discovery Table: Owls

All ages

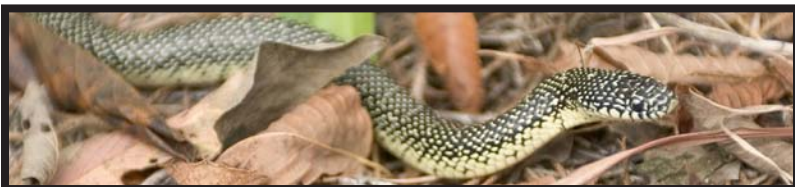
Many owlets are fledging this time of spring and making a ruckus as they try out their voices and establish new territories. Visit with a naturalist anytime between 11 and 2:30p to discover the almost super-hero powers of the owls of Missouri and make an owl craft to take home. Walk-ins are welcome, no registration required.

13 Tuesday 10:00 – 11:00a

Babes in the Woods: Not so Scary Snakes

Ages 0 – 36 months

Slither on out for a stroll outdoors with your little one. As parents we don't want to pass on our own fears, so let's gather some facts and become more acquainted with our local snakes and their habits. Please call to register.



13 Tuesday 6:30 – 8:00p

Conservation Kid's Club:

How to Eat Fried Worms

Ages 7 – 13

Wild pizza with a dollop of fried worms? Intrigued? Join the Club as we discover natural wild edibles in this hands-on, fun-filled program! Please call to register.



14 Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00a

Little Acorns: Yikes, Snakes!

Ages 3 – 5

Who's afraid of the big bad snake? No need to be scared of these slithering animals. We will get over our fear of snakes by learning about their amazing adaptations. Please call to register.

14 Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30a

Home School: Batty About Caves

Ages 6 – 8; 9 – 11; or 12 – 18

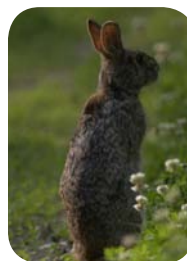
Enter a dark and mysterious new world as the Burr Oak Woods naturalists take you deep beneath the surface of the earth to discover a habitat that few ever see! Discover our only flying mammal and other strange and fantastic life forms that live within Missouri's caves. Please call to register.

24 Saturday 11:00 – Noon

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

Ages 2 & up

Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits. Walk-ins are welcome, no registration required.



24 Saturday Noon – 1:00p

Rabbit Tales

Families WITH CHILDREN 7 & UP

We know famous bunnies like the Easter Bunny, Peter Cottontail, and Bugs Bunny. Hop in to take a closer look at how the stories of these famous bunnies compare to facts about our backyard rabbits. No registration is required.



May 1 Saturday 10:00 – Noon

At long Last, Spring Wildflowers

Adults

We have waited a long time for spring! Join a naturalist out on the trails to discover the secret beauty of the native woodland wildflowers. How many species can you find? Please call to register.

Programs
for Families

MDC DISCOVER nature

Programs
for Women

10 Saturday 7:00 – 9:00p

Owl Prowl

Families WITH CHILDREN 6 & UP

Bring your family to learn about all the owl species found in Missouri. Discover the important role they play in the web of life by dissecting real owl pellets! As we silently prowl the woods and prairies searching for these nocturnal predators, help your child discover the importance of slowing down and taking time to observe nature carefully. Please call to register.



17 Saturday 2:00 – 8:00p

Family Explore Adventure Day

Families WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES



The family that explores together stays together! Join our staff for a fun-filled day of outdoor camping, fishing, canoeing, archery, geo-caching, letterboxing, safety, outdoor cooking (yum!), and so much more! Your family can stay for an hour or stay for the entire evening! Bring your own picnic supper and enjoy it together under the pavilion from 5:00 – 5:30. This special evening will conclude with a campfire, music, stories, and of course, s'mores! Don't miss out on the fun! Please call to register.



29 Thursday 6:30 – 8:00p

Three Creeks Conservation Area

Backpacking Orientation

Women 18 & up

This orientation is a precursor to the Discover Nature Women backpacking trip to Three Creeks Conservation Area near Columbia scheduled for May 15 and 16. We will plan our trip and the items you will need to bring with you. Are you a first time backpacker, but would like to give it a try? Please join us! We will have some equipment available to borrow for the trip. Please call to register.



**Join us as we feed the critters on exhibit at
Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
on Wednesdays and
Saturdays at 3p.
Every other Friday the
snakes will be fed at 3p.**



NEW! HOURS OF OPERATION **Started MARCH 1, 2010**

Conservation Area (trails)

Daylight Savings Time ~ 7:00a - 8:00p

Nature Center ~ Year Round

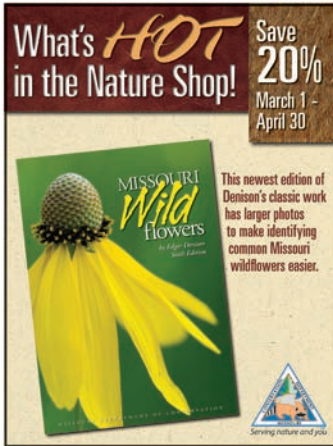
Tuesday - Friday ~ 7:00a - 6:00p

Saturday ~ 8:00a - 5:00p

Sunday - Monday ~ CLOSED

closed New Year Day, Thanksgiving,
the Friday following Thanksgiving, and Christmas

Nature Shop News



Missouri Wildflowers guide

If you are a devotee of the state's native plants, you'll love the revised sixth edition of Missouri Wildflowers. A stunning new cover brightens Denison's classic, as well as an enlarged format, new design and improved photographs. Colored tabs also have been added to the page edges for easier location of flower color groups. Descriptions cover plant characteristics, habitat and range. No new species have been included in this edition, but the taxonomy has been updated in accordance with the most current naming conventions.

296 pages * Revised 2008 * Soft cover
Heritage card discount does not apply.



Lake City Shooting Range

28900 E Argo Road, Grain Valley, Mo 64029

816-229-4448 ~ www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/lakecity/

Hours of Operation Wednesday - Sunday Noon - 4:30p

1 Thursday 6:00 - 8:00p

Basics of Spring Turkey Hunting

13 - 15 Tuesday-Thursday 6:00 - 8:00p

Bowhunter Education

17 Saturday 9:00 - 11:00a

Family Trap Shoot

Saturday, April 17, 2010 2:00 - 8:00p Family Explore Adventure Day

Bring your own picnic supper and enjoy it together under the pavilion from 5:00 - 5:30p.

Geo-caching
Camping
Canoeing

Outdoor Cooking
Nature Photography
Letterboxing

Fishing
Archery
Hiking

Campfire - Songs, Stories, and S'mores

Your family can stay for an hour or stay for the entire evening!



Discover Nature Families programs are signed to help adults and children explore nature and master outdoor skills together.



Burr Oak Woods
Conservation Nature Center
The Nutshell Newsletter
Missouri Department of Conservation
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015
Serving nature and you



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